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ENSURING EQUALITY FOR ALL



DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS

AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Human Rights Commission and Disability Employment Awareness Committee are seeking nominations for the Business Recognition Awards given to businesses that excel in the employment of people with disabilities in Bloomington. Nominations are due **September 13**.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT.

Since 1968, the Bloomington Human Rights Commission has advised the City Council on human rights issues. The nine-member commission also recognizes community members for their outstanding efforts in the area of human rights through the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award and the DisAbility Employment Awareness Month Business Recognition Awards.

OMAR BONDERUD AWARD

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. This award is presented to an organization or individual who has made a significant contribution toward ensuring the human rights of people in Bloomington. Human rights areas for consideration may include equal opportunity employment, housing, education and any other service that affects the social well-being of the community. Nominees must live or work in Bloomington and meet other established criteria. Nominations are due **September 10**. Nomination forms are available by calling 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740 or by visiting the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: OMAR BONDERUD.



2009 Award recipients Oak Grove Presbyterian Church.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS LAWS THAT PROTECT ALL CITIZENS



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted to provide broad anti-discrimination protection for all persons with physical and mental impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activities. The ADA covers employment, public services, public accommodations, services operated by private entities and telecommunication relay services.

The City has staff with ADA training that can provide assistance, guidance and follow-up in reference to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Call Human Services if:

- You believe you have been discriminated against because of a disability.
- You are building or renovating a publicly used building and want to make sure ADA guidelines for accessibility are met.
- You are a concerned citizen who believes a public or private entity is not accessible.

The City has made a commitment to serve individuals with disabilities and to make sure every individual has access to all services, public and private.

REPORTING A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION



The Bloomington Human Rights Commission aids and advises the City Council in ensuring all citizens have equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education and other affairs. The commission sponsors a number of educational forums and provides mediation for individuals who feel they have been discriminated against, as it relates to Human Rights laws.

For more information or to make a complaint, contact the Human Rights Commission at 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740.

(^_^) BSCO - XLNT XCHANG! BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION (BSCO)

BSCO NOW ON FACEBOOK ONLINE AND CONNECTED

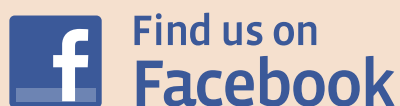


Keep up-to-date on all BSCO events and news by visiting the BSCO page

on Facebook. It's easy! If you're already a Facebook member, go to www.facebook.com and type Bloomington Sister City Organization in the search box. If you'd like, become a "fan" of BSCO and receive updated BSCO information on your Facebook page. You can also comment and share photos with other BSCO members and friends. If you're not a Facebook member, you can still view BSCO's Facebook page by visiting BSCO's website and clicking on the Facebook icon.

The BSCO Facebook page is an easy way to keep informed about upcoming activities and events.

BSCO recently updated its website. You can now join BSCO or renew your membership through a new PayPal feature. Visit www.bloomington-izumi.org.



CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIPS AND FUN TIMES SISTER CITY PROGRAMS FACILITATE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

The Bloomington Sister City Organization (BSCO) is in the midst of a very busy summer that includes hosting Japanese delegates and sending Bloomington delegates to Izumi City, Japan. On June 15, 11 high school and college students with two chaperones went to Izumi City for two weeks. Besides a high school and college tour, the group participated in exciting cultural activities.

Izumi City Mayor Tsuji and two of his staff members visited Bloomington in July. Mayor Tsuji attended a Twins game at Target Field and enjoyed fireworks at Bloomington's Summer Fete celebration.

This August brings a high school and college delegation from Izumi City to Bloomington for a two-week stay. The students will stay with host families and participate in a variety of activities in and around the community.

Since 1993, when Bloomington began a Sister City relationship with Izumi City, BSCO has promoted international understanding through exchanges of people, information and ideas. Community involvement is essential to the program's success. Cultural exchanges and hosting opportunities take place every year in Bloomington. For a truly memorable experience, call BSCO at 952-563-8713.

SHINE A LIGHT JAPANESE LANTERN LIGHTING FESTIVAL IS SURE TO PLEASE

BSCO will be at the annual Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival at Como Park in St. Paul, Sunday, August 15, 4 p.m. to dusk. This free event, modeled after summer festivals held across Japan, will include stage performances, cultural demonstrations, family activities and Japanese food.

For more information, call 952-563-8713 or TTY 952-563-8740, or visit www.bloomington-izumi.org.



Bloomington students spent two weeks in Izumi City.